

REMARKS

Restriction has been required among what the Examiner considers to be three patentably distinct species of the invention, as follows:

Group I, drawn to methods of controlling metabolism of nitric acid, presently comprising claims 1-14, 21, 22 and 24-27.

Group II, drawn to compositions and methods for preparing the compositions, presently comprising claims 15-20; and

Group III, drawn to a method for generating S-nitrosothiols *in vivo*, presently comprising claim 23.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-14, 21, 22 and 24-27.

It is not understood why an election of species is required, because the invention claimed in Group I is drawn to a method for controlling metabolism of nitric acid. Claims 1-14, 21, 22 and 24-27 currently read on this method.

If the election requirement is maintained, it will be clear on the record that the PTO considers the groups to be patentably distinct from one another *i.e.*, *prima facie* non-obvious from one another. This means that a reference identical to the one group would not render the other group *prima facie* obvious.

Appln. No. 10/663,693

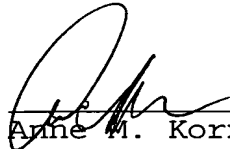
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2007

Favorable consideration and examination of all pending claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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